

null  
Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:49:07 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

March 21, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1356 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: WAR WITH IRAQ  
Ref: None

---

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01356

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: POL DCM AMB ECON  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:KVANDEVATE  
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN  
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI399  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #1356 0800917  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 210917Z MAR 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8969  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0611  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0669  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001356

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WAR WITH IRAQ

¶1. SUMMARY: THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ CONTINUES TO DOMINATE COVERAGE IN UAE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. EDITORIALS VOICE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC CONCERN FOR THE SUFFERING OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE. AN "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THE WAR SYMBOLIZES A DEFEAT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMANITY AS A WHOLE. LIKEWISE, AN "AL-

BAYAN" EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT THE WAR REPRESENTS A DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. FINALLY, AN "AL-ITTIHAD" EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE WAR WILL NOT STOP AS LONG AS THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS IN THE IRAQI REGIME YEARNING ONLY FOR POWER AND BLIND TO THE SUFFERING OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

¶2. SEMI-OFFICIAL ABU DHABI-BASED ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/21:

"... WHAT HAPPENED IS A CATASTROPHE ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS WARNED, CALLED TO AVOID, AND URGED EFFORTS TO AVERT. HOWEVER, THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME AND THE AGITATION OF OTHERS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE SHARP SPLIT IN DEALING WITH DANGEROUS ISSUES SUCH AS IRAQ HAVE INCREASED THE TONE OF THE CHALLENGE ... THUS INCREASING THE SUFFERINGS, HUNGER, AND THIRST OF THE BROTHERLY IRAQI PEOPLE, FORCED TO LIVE THROUGH THIS THIRD CATASTROPHIC ADVENTURE IN LESS THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY ... THE WAR HAS STARTED, WILL NOT STOP, AND WILL REMAIN SO AS LONG AS THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS (IRAQI REGIME) WHOSE DESIRE FOR POWER HAS BLACKED OUT THEIR EYES FROM SEEING THE SUFFERING OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE ..."

¶3. UNDER THE HEADLINE "A DEFEAT OF HUMANITY", SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 3/21:

"... BY THE STANDARDS OF MOST OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, AND AS MILLIONS VOICED THEIR CONCERNS IN TENS OF CITIES, THIS WAR HAS BEEN DICTATED. IT IS ILLEGAL AND DOES NOT HAVE ANY LEGAL JUSTIFICATION. IT IS A SPECIAL WAR LAUNCHED BY THE U.S. TO ACHIEVE ITS GLOBAL OBJECTIVES OF CONTROL AND HEGEMONY, WHICH IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD, MEET WITH THOSE OF INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM ... EVERY BULLET FIRED AT IRAQ CARRIES DEATH FOR ITS CIVILIANS. HOW IS THE SITUATION THEN WHEN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN PROMISING IRAQIS WITH THOUSANDS OF MUNITIONS INCLUDING SMART BOMBS, THE MOTHER OF ALL BOMBS, THE ELECTROMAGNETIC BOMBS, AND EVEN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR BOMB? THE WAR HAS STARTED AND IT IS A DREADFUL DEFEAT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMANITY AS A WHOLE."

¶4. DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/21:

"... THE MOST DANGEROUS ELEMENT IN THE AMERICAN AGGRESSION AGAINST BROTHERLY IRAQ IS THE LACK OF RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW. IN FACT, AMERICA HAS ABANDONED ALL INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND CHARTERS, AND THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS COME UNDER ITS CONTROL. WE DO NOT EXAGGERATE IF WE SAY THAT WHAT AMERICA DID YESTERDAY WAS A DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SEALED WITH AN AMERICAN STAMP ... THE WORLD IS IN CHAOS, AND FOR US, ARABS, IT WAS A SAD DAY, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, ONE OF THOSE BLACK DAYS THAT WE ADD TO OUR HISTORY RECORDS. WE REMAIN AT A STANDSTILL, DISABLED, YIELDING AS IF WE ARE SATISFIED WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING."

PUBLIC OPINION READ-OUT

¶5. A GENERAL MOOD OF CONCERN AND ANGER CONTINUES TO PREVAIL AMONG MOST EMIRATIS AND LOCAL ARABS. CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO VOICE THEIR DEEP CONCERN FOR THE SITUATION. ONE CONTACT ASKED: "DO YOU THINK SUCH A WAR WILL BRING DEMOCRACY TO THE ARAB WORLD? NO. ALL IT BRINGS IS MORE HUMILIATION AND DEFEAT FOR THE ARABS, MAINLY THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS, WHO KEEP WONDERING ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WHEN ADULTS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THEM. HOW WOULD WE EXPLAIN THE SURRENDER OF IRAQI SOLDIERS? IT IS ALL DISGRACEFUL." ALL CONTACTS REMAIN VERY WORRIED ABOUT "THE IRAQI PEOPLE, WHO HAVE HAD ENOUGH AND CANNOT BEAR FURTHER TRAGEDIES."

WAHBA